

Appl. No.: 09/592,950
Amdt. Dated: November 12, 2003
Reply to Office action of August 12, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This letter is responsive to the Office Action dated August 12, 2003.

Election/Restrictions

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that Claims 1-3 and Claims 13-16 are drawn to an invention non-elected with traverse in Paper No. 4 and that a complete reply to this rejection must include cancellation of non-elected claims. Applicant has cancelled Claims 1-3 and Claims 13-16 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Drawings

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his acceptance of the new corrected drawings.

Obviousness

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 4-6 and 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Condit et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,416,891). Applicant has cancelled Claims 4-6 and 9-10 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that Claims 17-20 are allowable subject matter. Applicant thanks the Examiner for his finding.

For the reasons above, the Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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and wherein, the oxidant inlet means comprises an air distribution manifold within the fuel cell stack for distributing air, as the oxidant, to individual fuel cells, wherein a main air supply line is provided connected to the air distribution manifold, wherein the catalytic reactor is provided in the main fuel supply line, and wherein a second catalytic reactor is provided in the main air supply line and a secondary fuel supply line connects the main fuel supply line to the secondary catalytic reactor, for a supply of fuel in an amount less than the stoichiometric amount required for combustion with air, whereby, the secondary catalytic reactor generates heated and humidified air.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A fuel cell system as claimed in claim 19, wherein each of the first and second catalytic reactors is generally tubular.